

April 15, 2009

OBEY IN SHELL LAKE FOR UPDATE ON AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

SHELL LAKE, WI - Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Shell Lake today for an update on how the Shell Lake School District will be using its portion of the \$476,000 in afterschool funding that he secured for the CESA 11 After-School Program Consortium in the omnibus appropriations bill that was recently signed into law. Shell Lake is one of 21 school districts in Obey's Congressional District that works with CESA 11 to provide after school services.

"Even in the best of times, afterschool projects are a good way to give kids the extra help they need to keep from falling behind in school. In times like these, they are especially important because families are in more turmoil, parents are working more hours, and these programs help provide supervised activities to keep kids safe and out of trouble," Obey said. "That's why we pushed for more funding for after-school centers in the budget and why I asked for these funds to help continue these after school programs here in Wisconsin."

"There is nothing more important for the future of our children than a good education," Obey added. "Offering extra help with homework, advanced tutoring and an adult-supervised safe-haven free of trouble, these after-school programs should help provide students a solid foundation for long-term success and a constructive alternative to channel their energies throughout the school year and summer."

The federal funds Obey secured are intended to help CESA 11 provide a safe, healthy, enriching, supervised after-school environment for children in Birchwood, Clayton, Cumberland, Grantsburg, Shell Lake, and Spooner. Since parental involvement is one of the keys to a student's academic success, the program is also designed to strengthen the community - family - school partnership.

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